

FOREWORD

We are pleased to present in this issue the final two sections of a major philosophical work. Since at least the beginning of the early modern period our conception of the world has had to a great extent to encompass the understanding that resulted from the scientific revolution. In their series of articles Dr. David Tin Win and Thandee Kywe have looked deeply at the metaphysical implications of science claiming that for all its intellectual and practical power science is unable to resolve the central metaphysical problems that have been debated for millennia. The first of this issue's articles considers the epistemological implications of science while the second considers its ethical dimensions. Because science is concerned with the material world rather than with the mind, the authors argue that it has essential limitations.

An attempt to integrate the non-material, even the spiritual, with scientific methodology is in William James' classic psychological work, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Dr. Cholbhavat Borirakkucharoen investigates James' view of the nature of such religious experience. The emphasis on variety had led some to charge James with a strong subjectivism but the author of this article interprets the work in a way that goes beyond relativism.

A rather different approach to the relation of the material to the spiritual is found in Dr. Adarsh Batra's article about Indian tourist sites associated with the life of the Buddha. There is a long tradition of making pilgrimages to such sites and Dr. Batra provides an excellent overview of that history.

Finally, Dr. Ioan Voicu considers the importance of modern technology for the multilateral diplomacy that is so important for the world. Such technology is essential for economic well-being in the modern world and it is important that the divide between the haves and have-nots of the world be resolved with these technologies. Dr. Voicu makes a strong case for making certain that diplomacy addresses this issue.

The Executive Editor